

Introduction

JOHN F. MURPHY*

This Introduction to the Foreign Law contributions may be regarded as the final note in my “swan song” as editor of the International Legal Developments in Review project.¹ Again this year, because of space limitations, it was decided to defer publication of the foreign law contributions until the fall issue of *The International Lawyer*. Also, the quality of these contributions indicates they are deserving of special treatment. This year’s foreign law contributions discuss a substantial number of exciting developments from major foreign legal systems.

For example, Howard L. Stovall’s contribution, “Arab Commercial Laws—Into the Future,”² reports on a sea of change underway in Arab commercial laws combining a revitalization of Islamic law and the impact of globalization. James M. Zimmerman, Michael Burke, and Xiaochu Ma, in their contribution on the People’s Republic of China,³ extensively describe China’s efforts towards establishing the rule of law in the fields of contract law, securities law, and mergers and divisions. The authors report that, although more needs to be done, China is undertaking significant improvements and reforms in these areas. The contribution on Mexican law⁴ reports on significant developments in Mexico leading to possible public regulation of e-commerce as well as on advances in corporate governance law, disputes over the safety features of Mexican vehicles seeking to enter into the United States pursuant to NAFTA provisions, Mexican judicial review of antidumping matters, and panel reviews of antidumping and countervailing duty rulings under chapter 19 of NAFTA. In an expansive survey of European law,⁵ the many authors explore in detail numerous developments in European Union law, as well as leading significant legal developments in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Finally, the contribution on Canadian law⁶ surveys some highly significant developments such as the enactment of a

*John F. Murphy is a professor of law at Villanova University School of Law in Villanova, Pennsylvania. He serves as chair and editor of this annual Review.

1. See Editor’s Preface, 34 INT’L LAW. 365 (2000).

2. Howard L. Stovall, *Arab Commercial Laws—Into the Future*, 34 INT’L LAW. 839 (2000).

3. James M. Zimmerman et al., *People’s Republic of China*, 34 INT’L LAW. 883 (2000).

4. Juan Carlos Luna et al., *Mexican Law*, 34 INT’L LAW. 861 (2000).

5. Mike Pullen et al., *European Law*, 34 INT’L LAW. 907 (2000).

6. Dean Saul, *Canadian Law*, 34 INT’L LAW. 849 (2000).

new federal Canadian environmental protection act and the first major change in Canadian antitrust law since 1986, as well as developments in Canadian communications law and income tax law. It also reports on U.S. legal developments relating to Canada, including agricultural trade disputes between the two countries, investor state disputes under NAFTA, and bilateral negotiations agreements regarding agriculture, magazines, and the fishing of salmon.

Deborah Enix-Ross, chair of the Comparative Law Division of the Section of International Law and Practice, deserves special credit for her successful encouragement of contributions from her division. I also want to thank Dean John B. Attanasio and Professor Joseph J. Norton, co-editors-in-chief of *The International Lawyer*, for their continuing support for including the foreign law contributions in International Legal Developments in Review, as well as Werner Ebke, Enrique Farah, Chantal Hebert, Heba Shams, and Shao Ming Shen for their substantive editorial review of these contributions. Special thanks again go to Christine M. Szaj, Executive Editor of *The International Lawyer*, for her continued Herculean efforts, and to Kimberly A. Dennis, managing editor of *The International Lawyer*. Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to the student editorial board of *The International Lawyer* for their excellent final editing and cite-checking, as well as to Monica Buckley, ABA Publishing Managing Editor, who coordinated the production work in this issue.

Last but not least, I am grateful to my secretary, Mrs. Terri LaVerghetta, for her fine work on this project.

As always, I would be pleased to receive any comments and suggestions from readers of this review. My mailing address is: Professor John F. Murphy, Villanova University School of Law, 299 North Spring Mill Road, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085. My e-mail address is: Murphy@law.villanova.edu.

May you read this issue with pleasure and profit.